

Livingston Job Service Workforce Center
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2008

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two formats of information have been provided below for our upcoming event – the outline format to accommodate Calendar/Community Bulletin Boards and a more fleshed-out version for general news stories.

You can conveniently download the text at our News Web page:

http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/livingston/news/news_index.asp

There you will also find links to a list of our most recent press releases.

Questions about downloading? Call Skip Shiver, Web site coordinator, at 406-222-8902.

CALENDAR FORMAT

WHAT: Livingston Job Fest 2007

WHEN: 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, 2008

WHERE: Livingston Civic Center

COST: FREE for Job Seekers. Employers pay \$35.00 for a table.

CONTACT INFO:

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NEWS STORY FORMAT

Local Job Festival Brings Careers and People Together

Area employers are eagerly signing up for the third annual Livingston Job Fest being hosted this year by the Livingston Job Service Workforce Center, Livingston Chamber of Commerce and the Livingston Enterprise Newspaper. This year's event will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 from 12:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. at the Livingston Civic Center near Sacajawea Park in Livingston, Montana.

The "Job Fest" is once again bringing careers and people together and is now one of the most anticipated events taking place in the community. Last year's event drew more than 40 of the area's top employers presenting job and career opportunities to hundreds of eager job seekers. The 2008 Job Fest is slated to be bigger and better than ever for both employers and job seekers. Larger numbers of employers and people seeking jobs or careers are expected to attend this year's event fueled by changes in local economic and market conditions. The event is once again open to employers from all industries and to the general public. Admission is free of charge for the general public. Employers interested in participating may reserve a table for a fee of \$35.00 by calling the Livingston Job Service Workforce Center at (406) 222-8904.

"Hosting the Job Fest is an effective, proactive way for us to help bring job seekers together with employers who have jobs to fill," says Joyce Heiser, Manager of the Livingston Job Service Workforce Center for the Montana Department of Labor & Industry. "Low levels of unemployment mean that business owners must find and develop new sources for workers. We see the Job Fest as a way to bring to light other pools of workers such as youth, retirees, trainees and others who may be rejoining the workforce."

Although state and local unemployment rates continue to rank at below the national average, statistics have shown increases over last year's unemployment figures. According to the latest statistics provided by the Montana Research and Analysis Bureau, Park County's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December, 2007 was at 4.4%, up from 3.3% a year earlier. Data also showed Park County had a total county-wide labor force in December of 8,723 workers. That number was down from 8,997 persons for the same time period a year ago. "A look at area demographics shows that the traditional workforce is shrinking and changing. With more competition for skilled workers, employers now find they must be more creative in their hiring practices," said Heiser.

Nearby Sweet Grass and Meagher counties have also experienced increased unemployment rates compared to a year earlier. Meagher county unemployment was at 4.3% in December of 2006, increasing to 6.5% in December of 2007. Sweet Grass county unemployment was at 1.2% in December of 2006, increasing slightly to 1.6% in December of 2007.

Heiser states, "The annual Job Fest is one of the best events we've put on to help meet the needs of our community—from job seekers to employers. It makes great use of time, energy and resources to focus everyone in one place for a few hours. Whether it's a new career, a job someone has never before considered or an eager new employee, there's sure to be something for everyone."

Employers will have the benefit of presenting information about their business organization to interested applicants. Some employers will interview and hire prospective workers on-the-spot. Others might choose to simply collect applications to develop an applicant pool for current or future job openings and simultaneously conduct general public relations about their company.

Job and Career Seekers will find a wealth of great employment opportunities offered by some of the area's premier employers. Some of the local industries represented at the event will include Banking & Finance, Hospitality, Construction, Computers, Insurance, Landscaping, Health Care, Real Estate, Sales, Law Enforcement, Recreation, Graphics, Airlines, Transportation and many more. Educational information will also be available for those wanting to take their careers to the next level.

"Job seekers will be encouraged to be job ready when they arrive to talk with employers. Job ready means showing up dressed for the workplace, having a completed application or resume and being ready for an interview", said Heiser.

For further details and updates about the Livingston Job Fest, please contact the Livingston Job Service Workforce Center at (406) 222-0520 or visit them on the web at:
<http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/livingston/>

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